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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
JAN 27 1954

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FROM: Guatemala City

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 252, January 26, 8 p.m.

Departures from Guatemala of two leading opposition figures appeared imminent when Foreign Office today announced it would grant safe conducts for Luis Beltranena Valladares and Miguel Camacho both in asylum in Salvadoran Embassy and also for Carlos Garcia Duran, in Nicaraguan Embassy. Municipal Council last night passed resolution expressing "surprise and pain" at police persecution of three of its members, Beltranena Valladares, Camacho and Ramiro Castellanos Gonzalez. Last named reportedly being sought by police.

In equivocal statement to press today, Augusto Charnaud MacDonald said there was no conspiracy against government but several citizens were being questioned about subversive activities. He refused to divulge names. Contradictorily, spokesman of detective squad (Guardia Judicial) said conspiracy had been discovered and investigations were continuing.

Only additional arrest reported today was that of Jorge Palacios, whose father-in-law, Colonel Alfredo Castaneda had been exiled for anti-government activities during Arevalo administration. Meanwhile, Roberto Castillo Sinibaldi, Director of Radio Ciros, was released.

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